

Remarks/Arguments

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Final Official Action mailed May 20, 2003 and the Advisory Action mailed August 5, 2003. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application. Entry of these remarks and reconsideration by the Examiner to that end is respectfully requested.

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor and the Examiner's Primary Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of August 22, 2003. The undersigned would also like to thank the Examiner's supervisor for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of September 3, 2003.

Claim 1 was discussed during the interviews. The undersigned point out that none of the art of record, including Jopson et al., appears to show or suggest the claimed invention. Among other things, the undersigned pointed out that the art of record appears to fail to show or suggest: a laser source element that produces a light output that has at least two polarization states; and a polarization medium positioned in proximal relation to the laser source element for polarizing the light output in a third polarization state that selects and attenuates each of the at least two polarization states equally or substantially equally. The undersigned noted that the Examiner cannot ignore any of this claim language, and must produce art that shows by itself or in combination *each and every element of the claim*.

During the September 3, 2003 interview, the Examiner's supervisor agreed to withdraw the Final Office Action and Advisory Action, and issue a new non-final office action in due course.

Application No. 09/577,034
Amendment dated September 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2003 and Advisory Action of August 5, 2003

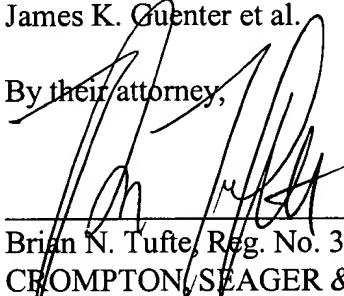
Having thus addressed the Examiner's grounds for rejections, Applicants believe pending claims 1-22 are clearly in condition for allowance. Reconsideration to that end is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Dated: September 4, 2003



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